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March 22, 1979

Dear Senator Chiles:

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Thank you for your inquiry of March 15, 1979, regarding the status of Mr. Wallenberg.

According to the Government of Sweden, Mr. Wallenberg was assigned to the Swedish Consulate in Budapest, Hungary, during World War II, and disappeared in August of 1945 following the arrival of Soviet troops in Budapest. In response to repeated inquiries by the Swedish Government, the Soviet Government in February 1957 stated that Mr. Wallenberg had died in a Moscow prison on July 17, 1947. Despite the fact that the Swedish Government has officially raised the issue of Mr. Wallenberg's fate on a number of subsequent occasions, citing the fact that several persons claimed to have seen him alive during the 1950's, the Soviet Government has provided no additional information.

Mr. Wallenberg's mother, Mrs. Frederick von Haxel, has continued to pursue the question of the fate of her son with the Swedish Government and the Swedish Red Cross. Since the Swedish Government and Red Cross are thoroughly familiar with Mr. Wallenberg's case, we believe they are in the best position to make inquiries to the Soviet authorities in the event that further representation would be believed helpful.

Sincerely,

Wem

Donald J. Bennett, Jr.
Assistant Secretary
for Congressional Relations

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Enclosure:

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H-TWeston

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The Honorable
Lawton Chiles

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